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Public (Services (1948) Department.

Ms. SERIES.

G.O. No. 3153

Dated 14th December 1948

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Assembly Question - June 1948 - N.G.G.Os. Strike - Particulars regarding number of men who struck work and the nature of punishment given - Papers recorded.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, the 10th September, 1948.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (The Hon. Sri J. Sivashanmukham Pillai) in the Chair.

I. Questions and Answers.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Non-gazetted officers' strike.

*236. Q.- Sri R.V. Swaminathan: Will the Hon. the ~~Minister~~ Premier be pleased to state --

(a) the total number of Government servants who have been punished by the Government for having participated in the recent Non-gazetted officers' strike in the Province; and

(b) the period during which they struck work and the nature ~~and~~ of/punishment given to them ? the

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):- "(a) and (b): The total number of non-gazetted officers who have been punished or against whom punishment is being contemplated is 74. Most of the persons struck work for the entire period of the strike, viz. 15th to 21st December 1947. A few joined duty before the strike was called off. The nature of punishment awarded is described in Press Note No.1 issued by the Government on 3rd January 1948 of which copies were laid on the table of the House on 18th February 1948 in answer to Legislative Assembly Question No.1. This Press Note should be read with Press Note No.83 (printed as Appendix I on p.65 infra), dated 31st March 1948 of which copies are now placed on the table of the House."

Sri R.V. Swaminathan:-"May I know whether this number of 74 includes acting hands also who are working in the Department?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"Yes".

Sri R.V. Swaminathan:-"Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that some of the acting hands were discharged irrespective of their past service rendered to the Government who had served in the war and some were also I.N.A. men ?".

The Hon. Gopala Reddi:-"I do not think there were any I.N.A. men who were involved in the strike. A number of ex-servicemen were involved but I do not know the number. The positio is made quite clear in the answer."

Sri R.V. Swainathan:-"May I know whether the Government are aware of the fct that some of the Police Sub Inspectors while undergoing taining in Vellore Police school were discharged before completing their training for participating in the strike ?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"They were temporary hands. The instruction is that they should be suitably dealt with.

Mohamed AbdulSalam Sahib:Bahadur:-"Is it not a point to be considered, Sir, that only 74 could have been chosen for punishment when thousands and thousands have taken part in the strike ?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"The strikers were classified into four ctegories:-

(1).....

(1) The general mass of the non-gazetted officers who chose to join the strike;
(2) the Tahsildars, deputy tahsildars and sub-magistrates among the non-gazetted officers who deserted their important posts and struck work;
(3) those who are proved to be guilty of acts of intimidation against those who did not join the strike; and
(4) those who defied and incited defiance of orders, issued under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code."

Sri S. Nagappa:-"May I know, Sir, whether the services of the temporary hands who were loyal to the Government were dispensed with after the period of the strike ?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"I do not think, Sir."

Sri R.V. Swaminathan:-"May I know, Sir, whether some of the discharged people have been later recruited as Sub Inspectors and are now undergoing training ?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"The matter was enquired into and nothing incriminating against them was found and so they have been entertained."

Sri V. Raghavayya:-"What is the fault for which the Government are still trying and contemplating punishment against some of the people particularly when the strike took place long long ago ? Is it not something like dogs barking long after the thief has left?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"Some of them actually defied section 144 and some of them intimidated. Those cases cannot be leniently dealt with."

Sri S. Nagappa:-"If the cases of some of the people who were ousted are specifically brought to the notice of the Government will they be considered favourably ?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"If such cases are brought to our notice we will certainly consider them."

Sri K. Linga Raju:-"May I know whether any of the grievances of the non-gazetted officers have been redressed and, if so what they are ?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"House-rent allowance and some other allowance have been granted."

Sri B. Bokkai Gowder:-"May I know, Sir, whether action has been taken against Gazetted Officer who might have induced the non-gazetted officers to strike work ?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"There is no such case."

Sri T. Viswanathan:-"May I know the number of persons the Government think should be punished because they have intimidated as against the total number who ~~xxx~~ were punished by them-?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"Those under category (1) were 26,207 (2) 60, (3)9 and (4) 5."

Sri P. Kandaswami Pillai:- "May I kow whether there was any Gazetted Officer involved in the strik by way of offering inducement to non-gazetted officers to strike work.?".

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"I wild like to have separate notice to this question because as far as I can see there is no body."

Sri R.V. Swaminathan:-"May I know, Sir, if the Government have recruited the discharged non-gazetted officers as Police

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Sub-Inspectors they would consider the desirability of consedering the question of taking back the Sub-Inspectors who were discharged while undergoing training ?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"I do not know how many of them are involved. The Hon. Member might be aware of that number."

Sri R.V. Swaminathan:-"Only two if I am correct M"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"We shall consider their case if they send up their applications to Government."

Dr. S. Subrahmanyya Ayyar:-"In view of the fact that the Association as such has given an undertaking of loyalty to the Government and most of them have been loyal will the Government think of remitting the punishment given to the 74 people ?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:- "No, Sir."

Sri R.V. Swaminathan:-"What happened to the Press Communique issued that the Government would give one year's increment to the loyal non-gazetted officers ?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:- The financial implications are being considered by the Finance Department just now."

Dr. S. Subramania Ayyar:-If the Government have themselves considered some of the requests made by the non-gazetted officers' Association legitimate do not the Government think that there was some little cause for the strike and as such will the Government view the whole ~~think~~ thing with sympathy ?".

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"We have remitted the punishment of 26,000 people."

N. Muhammad Anwar Sahib Bahadur:-"Do the Government know that the Government servants of our Province have not impaired the best traditions for loyalty and efficiency nowhere known in our country?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"We are thankful to these who have rendered efficient service from out of the non-gazetted services."

Sri V.I. Munuswami Pillay:-"Are the Government aware that some of the temporary hands that joined work and worked loyally for the Government had to go away from their service due to the harassment of the permanent staff after the strike?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"If any such harassment was there it could have been brought to the notice of the superior officers who would have looked into the matter."

Sri V.I. Muniswami Pillay:-"If it is brought to the notice of the Government, will the Government consider their case ?".

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:-"Certainly those people who came to the rescue of the Government will be considered."

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## Appendix - I.

(vide Answered to starred question No.236 asked by Sri R.V. Swaminathan at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 10th September 1948, at page 1 supra.)

p.t.o.

Government of Madras.
Public (Information and Publicity) Department

Dated Fort St. George, the 31st March 1948.

PRESS NOTE NO. 83

The Government have reviewed the position arising out of the steps taken by them towards the Non-gazetted Government Officers who struck work during December 1947 and note with satisfaction that a large number of them have atoned for their lapses by attending office on holidays and clearing off the arrears, which accumulated during the period of strike. The Government also note with satisfaction that most of the N.G.G.Os. have realised the impropriety of resorting to strike and the virtues in aligning themselves with the loyal citizens of the Province.

2. In their Press Note, dated 3rd January 1948 those who participated in the strike were divided into four categories and category (1) comprised the general masses of the non-gazetted officers who chose to join the strike. In the case of these general masses of N.G.G.Os. the Government have decided to restore the pay withheld from them and to cancel the orders of postponement of increment for one week passed on them. This order is subject to the condition that the persons concerned attend or have attended office and discharge or have discharged their duties on the number of public holidays equal to the number of days for which they struck work.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Public Department - Press Note No. I,
dated 3rd January 1948.

Government have considered the various questions arising out of the recent strike of the Non-gazetted Officers and have taken the following decisions:-

While Government cannot accept the propriety of the Association resorting to a strike, particularly after all services were declared essential services under the Maintenance of Public Order Act, Government do not propose to take any action for mere participation in the strike, except that those who absented themselves from work will not get any salary during the period of their absence. But Government cannot take the same attitude with reference to those who defied orders promulgated under Sec. 144 Cr.P.C. in the interest of maintenance of public peace, and those who are reported to have intimated employees who did not join the strike. As has already been stated, Government cannot also condone the action of officers like Sub-Magistrates and Tahsildars who were entrusted with responsible work. Government have also decided to express their appreciation of the sense of duty of those who stuck to their posts during the period of strike.

2. Those who participated in the strike may be divided into the following categories:-

(1) The general masses of the non-gazetted officers who chose to join the strike;

(2) Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and Sub-Magistrates among the non-gazetted officers who deserted their important posts and struck work;

(3) Those who are proved to be guilty of acts of intimidation against those who did not join the strike;

(4) Those who defied and incited defiance of orders, issued under section 144 Cr.P.C.

As regards category (1) above the Government direct

that those who joined duty within the first three days of the strike will be regarded as having been absent without leave for the days they were absent and that no salary be paid to them for the days of their absence. Their increments will not, however, be affected. As regards those who joined duty after the first three days, the Government direct that in addition to loss of pay for the days they were absent, their next increments be postponed by one week.

As regards category (2) above, the Government direct that in addition to loss of pay for the days they were absent, their next increments be stopped for one year which should have cumulative effect. They should further be deprived of their Magisterial work or work as Taluk Tahsildar and posted to be in charge of less responsible work such as land acquisition. They will not be given any special pay or allowance for work of this nature. With this punishment their suspension will be cancelled and they will be allowed to rejoin duty. All these officers should also be transferred out of their districts. Sub Registrars who were in charge of essential treasury and Magisterial work who participated in the strike will be dealt with similarly.

As regards category (3) Government direct that those of the staff employed on a temporary basis who had resorted to intimidation should be sent away i.e. discharged. Permanent men who are proved guilty of acts of intimidation should have their pay reduced by two stages in the time scale to which they belong. In cases where they are at the bottom of the time scale, their increments should be withheld for two years.

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As regards category (4) Government direct that they should be kept under suspension if they are already under suspension and a departmental enquiry should be held into their conduct in defying orders issued under section 144 Cr.P.C. This enquiry will be held by an officer to be nominated by Government who will submit his report

to...

to Government for orders.

3. Temporary men employed during the strike will be retained in preference to those who had been recruited previously under 9(a)(i) of the General Rules and who participated in the strike.

4. As regards Government servants who did not join the strike but stayed at their posts, the Government direct that a special entry should be made in their confidential files that they loyally stuck to their posts during the period of strike and that special consideration should be shown to them when dealing with the questions of promotion. The Government have also decided that they should be given one advance increment but financial details in regard to this are being examined and further orders will follow.

K. Ramunni Menon,
Chief Secretary to Government.

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p.t.o.

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Public (Services) Deptt.

The question on p.1 c.f. was answered on 10-9-48 and the printed proceedings are at pp.~~13-19 c.f.~~ (ante). No further action seems necessary. The papers may be recorded after perusal by the Home Department of the answers regarding Sub Inspectors of Police at portions A, B and C on pp.13-15 c.f. (ante) respectively. 1-7

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29-11-1948.

Home Department.

The case has been sent to this department with reference to the answers at portions A, B and C on pp.13-15 ante in connection with the L.A.Q. at p.1 ante. May be perused and the case returned to Public (Services).

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10-12-48

Public (Services) Deptt.

The papers may now be recorded.

G.O.Ms.No.3153 Public (Services), dated 14-12-48

MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION - June 1948 - M.S.U.Os. strike - Particulars regarding number of men who struck work and the nature of punishment given - Papers recorded.

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( True copy /

R. Thangarajan 21.1.54
Office Assistant
Madras Record Office

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